

ABSTRACT

A spin tub of a washing machine is driven by an electronically commutated DC motor. The commutation devices are connected to a DC power supply and have free-wheeling diodes connected in parallel therewith. The washing machine includes other components having inductive windings. A controller terminates commutation of power to the motor windings. A voltage threshold detector monitors the voltage of the power supply. Switching structure connects the inductive winding of an unused component in the machine across the power supply when the detector detects that the voltage has exceeded a predetermined value and subsequently disconnects the inductive winding of the unused component from the power supply when the detector detects that the voltage has reduced below the pre-determined value.